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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20221

Jennifer China

Type or print name

October 1, 2002

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

SCHWIND ET AL.

APPLICATION NO: 10/044,373

FILED: JANUARY 11, 2002

FOR: LENS CARE PRODUCT CONTAINING DEXPANTHENOL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEME

Sir:

Applicants believe this paper is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, and so under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) no fees are required. If a fee is deemed to be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants wish to call the Examiner's attention to the references cited on the attached form(s) PTO-1449.

Copies of these references are enclosed herewith.

The Examiner is requested to consider the foregoing information in relation to this application and indicate that each reference was considered by returning a copy of the initialed PTO 1449 form(s).

Novartis Corporation Patent and Trademark Dept. 564 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901-1027 (678) 415-4389

Date: October 1, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Gorman, Jr. Attorney for Applicants Reg. No. 41,789